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HEADQUARTERS

Grand Army of the Republic

RED BANK, NEW JERSEY, NOV. 9, 1908.

Report of Committee on Plan for Observance of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the committee authorized by the 41st National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, and appointed "to take into consideration the fitting celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln," which was made a report to the 42nd National Encampment that was unanimously adopted, the undersigned have been appointed a committee to prepare a program for the occasion, met in New York City, October 19th, 1908, and submits the following as the result of its deliberations:

1. That the Commander-in-Chief be requested to invite the President of the United States, Governors of States and Territories and Mayors of cities, to participate with the Grand Army of the Republic in public recognition of the Centennial Anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1909, and by proclamation as far as practical, recommend that the day be observed as a special holiday.

2. That the Commander of each Department shall appoint immediately a committee to arrange for the celebration in his Department according to the following program.

3. That the Department Committee shall be announced in Department General Orders, with an outline of the method proposed herein for adoption. to wit:

(a). That every Post shall recognize the day in some fitting manner, either in special meeting, or in attendance as a body where a public celebration is held.

(b). That in cities or towns where there are more than one Post, there shall be a united observance, where it is practicable, embracing all the Posts which shall be public.

(c). That in the rural districts the exercises shall be held at the county seat, to which all Posts may send delegates without limit, or at such other places as the Posts shall designate for their convenience.

(d). That the co-operation of the Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., Sons and Daughters of Veterans, and all other patriotic societies be invited to participate in all functions arranged for this occasion.

(e). That all departments of education controlling colleges, universities, and public, parochial or private schools, be requested to arrange for recognition of the day with appropriate and special exercises, and we recommend the following program:

1. KELLER'S AMERICAN HYMN.
2. INVOCATION.

   "Almighty Father: Humbly we bow before Thee, our Creator, Guide and Preserver. We thank Thee for what faith makes real to us; Thine almighty power that created the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein; the boundless love that environs Thy children and moves them reverently to say 'Our Father.' We thank Thee for the noble men under whose leadership this fair land was dedicated to freedom of thought, expression and action; to their successors who have given themselves to solving grave problems arising from changing conditions. At this hour we would specially thank Thee, that in the time of the country's dire peril a man was sent of Thee equal to the emergency. We pray, our Father, that these evidences of Thy love and goodness and these examples of noble living and noble doing, may inspire us all to attempt to live unselfishly, and to do our duty as far as in us lies according to the precepts of Thy Holy Word, and to Thee we give all the honor and praise, now and forever more. Amen."

3. "BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC," - - .....
   (Solo with Chorus).
4. SKETCH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, - - - .....
   (Not over 500 words).
5. LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS, - - - .....
6. CENTENNIAL HYMN (J. G. Whittier), - - .....
   (See J. K. Paine, page 79)
7. EXTRACTS AND QUOTATIONS FROM THE WRITINGS AND SPEECHES OF LINCOLN, - - .....
   (By Selected Pupils)
8. "STAR SPANGLED BANNER," - - - - - - - By Audience
9. ADDRESS (Life and Character of Lincoln) - .....
10. "AMERICA," - - - - - - - - - - By Audience
11. BENEDICTION, - - - - - - - .....

(f). That the clergy are requested to have special services in their churches, synagogues and Sabbath schools on the Sabbath preceding February 12th.

And this committee recommends and urges that every comrade shall have *personal notice* of the forthcoming observance; be furnished with the Order of Exercises herewith issued, and fully informed of the purpose to

issue at cost from National Headquarters upon requisition of the Department Quartermaster, a Souvenir Medal, suitably inscribed, that will be a welcome heirloom token of the patriotism of the comrade who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Civil War under the direction of its Commander-in-Chief, Abraham Lincoln.

And it is further urged, without waiting for more definite details, that immediate steps be taken to carry out the program, that it may be complete, and its example a stimulation for a general recognition of the day.

And it is recommended that the following program be the Order of Exercises for all Assemblies (except as provided for schools.)

1. MUSIC (Instrumental), - - - - - .....
2. INVOCATION (Same as recommended for schools), ...
3. "AMERICA," - - - - - - - - - By the Audience
4. VOCAL MUSIC (Solo or Glee Club), - - .....
5. ADDRESS (Life and Character of Lincoln), - .....
6. "STAR SPANGLED BANNER," - - - - - By the Audience
7. GETTYSBURG ADDRESS, - - - - - .....
8. "NEARER MY GOD TO THEE," - - - - By the Audience
9. DOXOLOGY, - - - - - - - - By the Audience
10. BENEDICTION, - - - - - - - .....

Department Commanders are requested to see that this Order is promulgated through the Press.

ALLAN G. BAKEWELL, Chairman,
ST. CLAIR A. MULHOLLAND,
J. PAYSON BRADLEY,
WILBUR F. BROWN,
HEMAN W. ALLEN,
} Committee

Approved:

Henry M. Nevins
Commander-in-Chief, G. A. R.

Official:

Frank O. Cole
Adjutant General.

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